



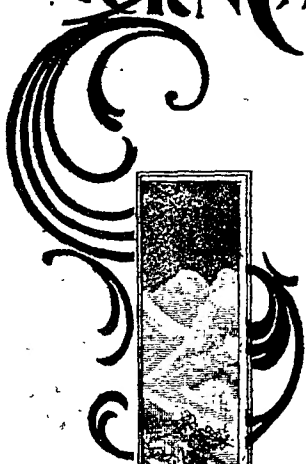



ADVANTAGES

OF

WESTERN CANADA

14



SOME OF THE 

ADVANTAGES

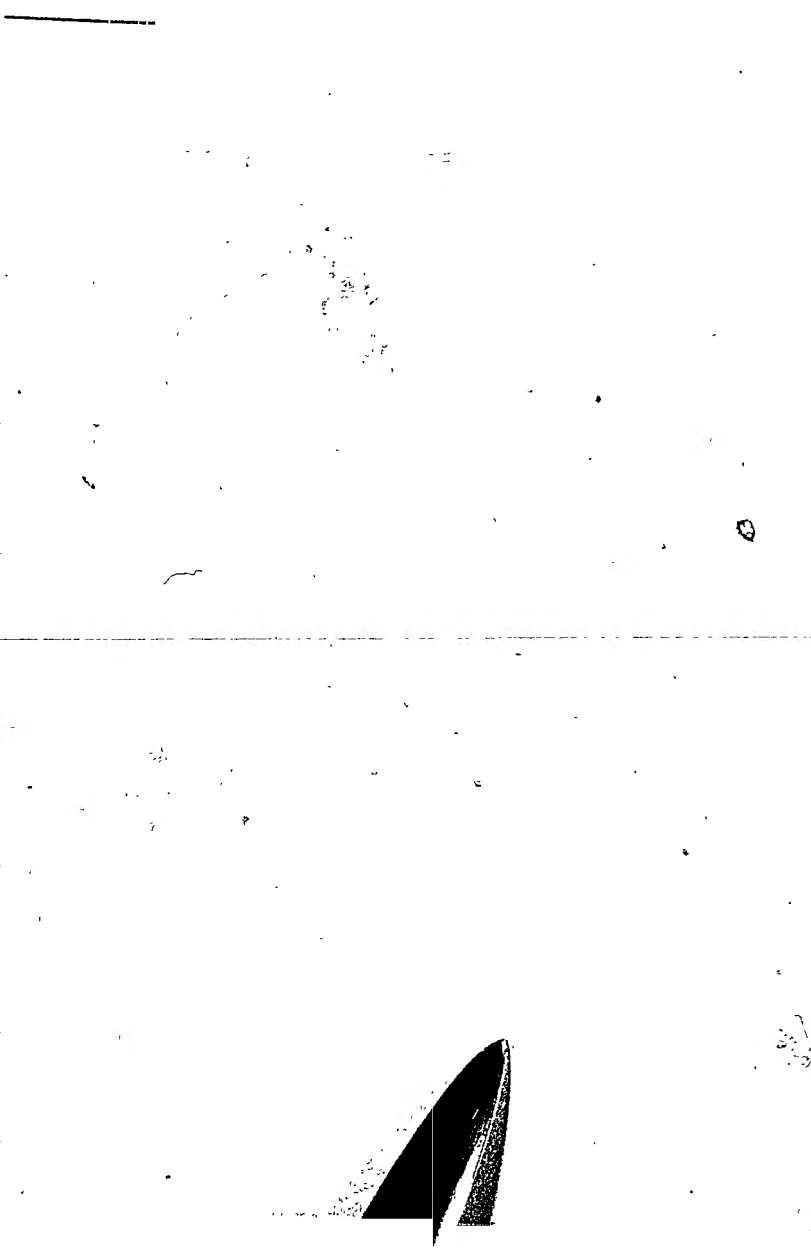
OF

WESTERN CANADA

PRACTICAL FARMERS

GIVE THEIR EXPERIENCES

OTTAWA
GOVERNMENT PRINTING BUREAU
1898



REPORTS OF DELEGATES

WHO HAVE VISITED WESTERN CANADA.

The following letters have been selected from a large number of those sent by delegates to report on Western Canada to their friends in Michigan, and other places, and as a result of which hundreds of people expect to leave this spring for the Free Grant Lands of Western Canada.

THEY ARE NOW ON THE ROAD
TO PROSPERITY.

Winnipeg, Man., Sept. 10, 1897.

Mr. M. V. McInnes,

Chief Colonization Agent,

Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sir,—We are pleased to state to you that we have found the country in the vicinity of Alameda fully up to what you and Mr. Keller had represented it to be. It is, in fact, an ideal location for mixed farming. The soil is the best we ever saw, and as the farmers were all busy at threshing, we had an excellent chance

to see its productive quality, which cannot be surpassed anywhere. The cattle could not be in better condition. We saw two-year-old steers equal to three-year-old raised in most places, and these, as all others are about Alameda, were fed on native hay in winter and herded in summer. As we had, previous to this, visited the north-western States on behalf of a large number of farmers, to locate suitable land for mixed farming, we are now in a position to say that the Alameda district of Western Canada surpasses them all. The country is equal to that about Thuringen in Germany. We were rather sceptical before starting, and our intention was to settle in spring, if we were suited, but we have now decided to move at once ; that is, as early this fall as we possibly can. We left Mr. Riedel at Alameda, and take back his report, and we will take his family and effects with us when we go.

We herewith inclose you copy of our report to our friends. We will call upon you on our return, and will give Mr. Keller all the assistance we can before moving. He has had considerable trouble in getting us to start, and we are thankful for his efforts.

Thanking you for your kindness to us while in Detroit, we remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) ALBERT MAI,
FRED GOTTOWSKI.

WHEAT A GOOD YIELD, WITH 62
POUNDS TO THE BUSHEL.

Ludington, Mich., Nov. 1, 1897.

M. V. McInnes, Esq.,
Colonization Agent,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sir,—We have just returned from the west, and were exceedingly well pleased with the country. We are going back to take up our homesteads in early spring. We received \$35 per month and board, working for farmers, and the board was the best we ever had—the beef and mutton, especially, were excellent. The fine flavour is owing to the fine grasses which the cattle and sheep feed upon. The people are very hospitable, and treat their hired help with much kindness.

The grain is much heavier than here, wheat being 62 pounds to the bushel; oats 48 pounds; and barley often 55 pounds.

Any man with a good team and money enough to buy provisions and seed for six months, can become rich there in five years. Many people who arrived there five years ago, with little or nothing, are well off now. One man I met held his wheat from last year, and was offered \$16,000 for this year's crop and what he held over from last year, and he is holding it at \$1 per bushel. We are

going back in the spring to work for this same farmer until seeding, after which we will homestead between seeding and harvest. We think we will settle on the North-Western Railroad.

You can refer any one to us for this part of the country, while we are here, and we will cheerfully answer any questions which any one may wish to ask.

Yours truly,

(Signed). CHAS. HAWLEY,
JOSEPH DOLAN.

"THE FINEST WHEAT WE EVER SAW."

Alameda, N.W.T., Aug. 31, 1897.

Dear Friends of Saginaw :

Those desiring to secure a good and sure home will do well to take our advice, and examine the land in the neighbourhood of Alameda. As we know that every one who sees this land will be agreeably surprised. Before seeing this land we were partly in doubt as to moving here, but after looking it over we at once decided to make our home here, and we beg those of our friends who are desirous of securing farms not to let this chance slip by, as the soil is of the best and the water cannot be excelled. The finest wheat we ever saw is also raised here.

We shall return home in haste, straighten out our affairs, and move here at once.

Yours truly,
(Signed) WILLIAM GOTTOWSKI,
ALBERT MAI,
WILLIAM RIEDEL,
(of Saginay).

FULLY DETERMINED TO REMAIN
AT ALAMEDA.

Alameda, N.W.T., May 22nd, 1898.

Dear Brother August :

I have your letter and am pleased to note that you are all getting along well and are enjoying good health.

I would have written you before this, but before doing so wanted to satisfy myself more fully as to this locality. I desire to say that I have fully determined to remain here, so have the others. Outside of my farm I have more work than I can do at plastering and brick-laying, and can earn more at my trade here in one day than I could in Detroit in two. I want to sell my house, and if it only brings \$1,800 sell it, as I want to buy 200 acres adjoining my place. I can make more out of the land, ten times over, than I can by renting the house.

There is not a family in this entire locality, who have been here five years or over, but what they are in good

circumstances. The weather is very fine here at present.

When will father and Albert come? Let me know.
Best regards from us all.

Your brother,
(Sgd.) HERMAN KNEBUSH.

A PERFECT HOME SECURED AT LITTLE COST,

Joan and Theodore Striovski, formerly residents of Michigan, but now living in Alameda, Western Canada, before taking up their homes there visited the country as delegates. They reported to the Government of the Dominion of Canada the result of their observations, and from this report extracts have been taken which are published below.

"We have visited a number of most desirable locations, and are highly pleased with the country as a whole, it being beyond our highest expectations. We find here a prosperous and well-contented lot of people. They have comfortable homes, and their vast fields of wheat and other crops in addition to their herds of choice cattle, indicate prosperity in the full sense of the word. In conversation with the farmers throughout our trip, we learned that the majority of them came

here with very limited means, and some with no more than enough to bring them here, and they are now well-to-do. They all claim that this is the only country for a poor man, or one with little means, to get a start and make a home for himself and family. As you are aware, we were a little shaky and undecided before leaving Detroit, but have determined since that we, with our friends, will make this country our future home. It is far from being the wilderness we had pictured it to be ; it is, instead, a land having all the facilities required by modern civilization, such as railroads, markets, stores, churches, schools, &c., in fact, an ideal home for those having the future welfare of themselves and families at heart."

The Messrs. Striovski selected the Alameda district, but what they say of it applies in a general way to most other districts in that vast country. They speak of the fuel, which is to be had in great quantities, of the water that can be had by digging from 10 to 20 feet, and of the good grazing land, to be had almost everywhere. There is plenty of wood for building timber and for fuel, while coal is convenient, and sells at low prices at the mines. In driving through the country they passed many fine patches of wild raspberries, and say they can speak highly of the flavour, as they could not resist the temptation to stop and eat.

AN EXCELLENT COUNTRY FOR
MIXED FARMING.

Duck Lake, N.W.T., July 17, 1897.

Mr. M. V. McInnes,
Chief Colonization Agent,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sir,—After carefully looking over the land north of Alameda, N.W.T.; also noting condition of crops, and consulting with the people now living in this district, we find it, as a whole, a most desirable location for settlement.

The advantages here offered consist of a very productive soil, plenty of good water within easy reach (by digging from 10 to 20 feet); in all, an excellent country for mixed farming. There is also plenty of wood in the Moose Mountains, and within easy reach of this section of the country. In the Moose Mountains there is also the finest kind of pasture for stock, and its many lakes abound with fish. There is within close range, the Souris River Coal Belt, where coal can be had at the mines for \$1 per ton. On account of the scarcity of help, the mines have been, for the past few winters, unable to supply the demand. Certainly, a most encouraging future for those of small means, who may find it a source of earning a few dollars during the winter months—as a whole, this section of the country is sec-

ond to none. The crops look fine; also, the stock, and the people are prosperous and well contented, and on my return will furnish you with a detailed statement of sixteen townships, situated between Alameda and the Moose Mountains.

I am, yours truly,

(Sgd.) H. D. KELLER.

REMARKS ON ALAMEDA.

The country north of Alameda and south of the Moose Mountains, is worth more than passing notice. There are about twenty townships in this district, and a more fertile stretch of country is not to be found in Southern Assiniboia. It is a district well watered throughout. Water is to be had by digging from 10 to 20 feet in any part of it, and the Moose Creek, flowing through the length of the entire section, offers plenty of good clear water for cattle. There are numerous hay-bottoms scattered through the entire district; this, in connection with the fine grass to be had on the Moose Mountains, and plentiful supply of good grazing land in these mountains, makes it one of the most desirable cattle districts to be found. On the mountains there are numerous little lakes, with plenty of fish; also, lots of game, such as deer, moose, &c.,

and an abundance of wood for building timber and fuel. In addition, there are the Souris River coal mines, within 30 miles, where coal can be bought at the mines for \$1 per ton—removing the objection which we have had to some otherwise very good locations. For general mixed farming, there is no better location to be found, being close to a good market, and closer to Winnipeg than any desirable district open for homesteading. The soil is a rich, black, sandy loam, and the country throughout is one of the most fertile. In this district are to be found some of the most well-to-do farmers in the North-west. They made their money where they are now located, and have no desire to change their lot with any other lot of farmers in Canada. There are some fine quarter-sections still open for homesteading, and some choice railroad sections to be bought. The coal mines offer plenty of employment for those desiring to work during the winter months, and the wealthy farmers have been short-handed every summer. This makes it a fine opening for those of moderate means, as well as for those with more money.

Will write in a few days.

(Sgd.) H. D. KELLER.
ALBERT MAI.

LOTS OF GAME. ABUNDANCE OF FUEL.
AND A GREAT
WHEAT-GROWING COUNTRY.

Alameda, Canadian West, July 20, 1897.

Mr. M. V. McInnes,

Chief Agent of Canadian West Colonization,
No. 1 Merrill Block, Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sir,—After carefully looking over various parts of Manitoba and the Canadian West, we desire to inform you that we have decided on the district between Alameda and the Moose Mountains for the location of our people. We have visited a number of most desirable locations, and are highly pleased with the country as a whole, it being beyond our highest expectations. We find here a prosperous and well-contented lot of people. They have comfortable homes, and their vast fields of wheat and other crops, in addition to their herds of choice cattle, indicate prosperity in the full sense of the word. In conversation with the farmers throughout our trip, we learned that the majority of them came here with very limited means, and some with no more than enough to bring them here, and they are now well to do. They all claim that this is the only country for a poor man, or one with little means, to get a start and make a home for himself and family. As you are aware, we were a little shaky and undecided be-

fore leaving Detroit, but have determined since that we, with our friends, will make this country our future home. It is far from being the wilderness we had pictured it to be ; it is, instead, a land having all the facilities required by modern civilization, such as railroads, markets, stores, churches, schools, &c., in fact, an ideal home for those having the future welfare of themselves and families at heart.

Our reason for favouring the location we have decided on is because a more fertile stretch of country is not to be found in Southern Assiniboia. It is a district well watered throughout. Water is to be had by digging from 10 to 20 feet in any part of it, and the Moose Creek, flowing through the length of entire sections, offers plenty of good, clear water for cattle. There are numerous hay-bottoms scattered through the entire district. This, in connection with the fine grass to be had on the Moose Mountains, and plentiful supply of good grazing lands on these mountains, make it one of the most desirable cattle districts to be found. On the mountains there are numerous little lakes, with plenty of fish. There is also lots of game, such as deer, moose, &c. ; also, an abundance of wood for building timber and fuel. In addition, there are the Souris River coal mines within thirty miles where coal can be had at the mines at \$1 per ton, removing the objection that we

have had to some otherwise very good locations. For general mixed farming there is no better location to be found, as it is close to a good market, and closer to Winnipeg than any other good district open for homesteading. The soil is a rich, black, sandy loam, and the country throughout is one of the most fertile. We had drives all over this section and talked with the farmers living here. In our drives we passed many fine patches of wild raspberries; we can speak as to their flavour, as we could not resist the temptation of passing them without picking all we desired to eat. As to the farmers in this district, they are some of the most well-to-do in the Canadian West. They made their money where they are now located, and have no desire to change their lot with any other lot of farmers in Canada. There are some fine quarter-sections still open for homesteading, and some choice railroad sections to be bought. The coal mines offer employment for those desiring to work during the winter months, and the wealthy farmers have been short-handed every summer. This makes a fine opening for those of very moderate means, as well as for those with more money.

We, with the exception of Mr. Keller, will remain here. Mr. Keller will start for Detroit in a few days to make all necessary arrangements for such of our friends as may desire to locate here with us. On his arrival he will give you further particulars as to the localities

we visited. Thanking you very much for the trouble you have gone to in our behalf, we are,

Yours truly,

(Signed) FRED MILLER,
JOAN STRIOVSKI,
THEODORE STRIOVSKI,
H. D. KELLER.

